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242  
262

To the Chairman and Members of the Northfleet Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,—

I beg to present my 37th Annual Report to your notice. During the year 1925 there were registered in Northfleet 356 births (201 males, 155 females) and 175 deaths (84 males, 91 females), showing a natural increase of 181.

Nine illegitimate births were registered.

The population at the census in 1921 was 15,719—the population as estimated by the Registrar General for 1924 was 16,900—so that a fair estimate for 1925 is 17,000. The latter figure will be taken as the basis for estimating the birth and death rates.

The birth rate for 1925 was 20.9 per 1,000—showing a slight decrease. The death rate of all dying in Northfleet was 10.2—a slight increase. If the deaths of 11 strangers which were registered in Northfleet are deducted we get the very low death rate of 9.5.

The **nett** death rate (which is arrived at by the deduction of deaths of 11 strangers and the addition of 31 inhabitants of Northfleet who have died outside the district) was 11.4 per 1,000.

**Infantile Mortality.**—There were 28 deaths of children under 1 year of age, giving a rate of 78.6 to every 1,000 born.

No illegitimate child died.

Death was caused by Zymotic Disease in 37 cases as follows, viz.:—

Measles .....	2
Whooping Cough .....	2
Diphtheria .....	15
Influenza .....	3
Tuberculosis of Lungs .....	13
Tuberculosis, other forms ...	2
Total .....	37

During the year 1925 there were notified 136 cases of Infectious Disease, viz.:—

Diphtheria .....	84
Erysipelas .....	4
Scarlet Fever .....	17
Enteric .....	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	22
Tuberculosis, other forms ...	4
Pneumonia .....	2
Puerperal Fever .....	1
Total .....	136

**Diphtheria.**—The epidemic of this disease was continued from 1924—and the Council have had special reports dealing with this.

84 cases were notified with 15 deaths.

The cases were notified in the following months, viz.:—

January .....	8
February .....	5
March .....	6
April .....	21
May .....	12
June .....	3
July .....	1
August .....	8
September .....	5
October .....	7
November .....	6
December .....	2
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Total .....	84
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It will be noticed that while for the first three months of the year there was a decrease in the number of cases, there was a recrudescence of the disease in April and May. The age attacked was almost entirely “school age.”

It was found necessary to close the Rosherville Schools at the end of April for three weeks as the majority of the cases had occurred amongst scholars attending that School. A circular has been issued by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education against the closure of Schools for infectious disease, with the idea that the children can be kept more under observation. With this I regret to say that as far as this district is concerned I totally disagree. The houses in Northfleet have plenty of air space around them—consequently the children at home are not brought into such close contact with each other as they would be in the confined space of a class room.

At any rate, the result of closure of Rosherville was most satisfactory as the epidemic immediately began to die away. Moreover, the number of cases decreased in all Schools during the holidays. The School was thoroughly disinfected. A notice was served on the School Managers to thoroughly cleanse the whole School—as it was found to be in a very unsatisfactory state.

A strict record was kept of the Schools which the affected children attended, together with the date of their last attendances. I visited the Schools frequently and took 67 “swabs” from the throats of children—only two proving “positive.”



With regard to the steps taken to deal with the epidemic—

1. Anti-Diphtheritic Serum is supplied free to all medical men practising in the district.
2. Disinfectants are freely supplied and rooms in which the patient has been are disinfected.
3. I visited the Schools constantly and gave directions as to the destruction of all pencils in classes affected and the disinfection of drinking mugs.
4. The milk and water supply were enquired into in all cases.

The disease in some instances assumed a very virulent form—several children dying before they could be removed. On the other hand, many children had the disease very mildly, some of the cases only being detected by bacteriological examination. I think the epidemic may now be said to be at an end as this month (January) only three cases have been notified.

**Scarlet Fever.**—17 cases were notified without a death.

**Erysipelas.**—4 cases were notified.

**Enteric.**—2 cases were notified—both in one house and both had apparently been infected by shell-fish at the seaside.

**Tuberculosis of Lungs.**—22 cases were notified, of which 6 proved fatal. In addition there were 7 other deaths from this disease—which had been notified in previous years.

**Tuberculosis in other forms.**—4 cases were notified—2 proving fatal. The method of dealing with Tuberculosis is most unsatisfactory. I beg to again express a hope that some method of dealing with advanced cases will be devised.

9 cases of Tuberculosis of Lungs and 4 cases of Tuberculosis in other forms were admitted to Sanatoria or Hospitals during the year.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—No cases occurred.

**Puerperal Sepsis.**—1 non-fatal case was notified.

A good many cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Strood Isolation Hospital as it was found impossible for them to be properly isolated at home. In this connection it is a curious fact that the patients remain infectious for a longer period in hospital than they do at home. This necessitates a somewhat prolonged detention in hospital.

There is a Hospital for Small-Pox with 6 beds and an administrative block maintained and always kept ready in Northfleet. This Hospital can

always be expanded at short notice. I fear that this necessity may arise at any moment as this disease has been and still is very prevalent in the North and Midlands owing to the serious neglect of Vaccination.

All houses are properly disinfected where cases of infectious disease (including Tuberculosis) have occurred and the contents of the room where the patient has been are treated at the Steam Disinfecting Station.

**Housing.**—The shortage of houses still remains. During 1925, 67 new houses have been erected and certified as fit for habitation. In 1924, 56 new houses were erected. Though this is an improvement, still the progress made is too slow to deal adequately with the overcrowding that undoubtedly exists.

All Milkshops, Dairies, Cowsheds, Workshops, Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses are frequently visited by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

There are 8 Bakehouses (2 underground) and 5 Slaughterhouses. All are very well kept and clean.

It was found necessary to condemn

1,096-lbs. of Beef, 125-lbs. of Pork, and 112-lbs. of Fish.

**Maternity and Child Welfare.**—The work at the Centre goes on quietly and smoothly and from the attendance it is evident that the mothers greatly appreciate the efforts that are made to give them advice and assistance in bringing up their children. It is now found that mothers who attended the Centre when it was first opened now come with second and third babies. Up to December 31st, 1925, 1,004 children have attended since the opening of the Centre, 122 being new attendances during the year. The average weekly attendance during the past year has been 71.03, as compared with 71.24 in 1924, and the average weekly attendance for free milk 21.5 as compared with 30.59 in 1924. The total number of attendances has reached the very high figure of 3,694 during 1925.

The Centre is open on three days a week, on one of which the Nurse attends alone for the sale of dried milk and on the other two I attend also. Free milk is supplied where necessary for expectant and nursing mothers and infants. There is evidence of some improvement as regards unemployment, by the drop that has taken place in the number supplied with free milk.

A separate Ante-Natal Clinic has now been opened on one day a week under the care of Dr. Crawford, and I have no doubt in time will prove as great a success as the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Arrangements have been made with the Gravesend Hospital for the admission of difficult cases of Labour.



As I am also Medical Inspector of Schools, it is peculiarly interesting to see those who were once babies at the Child Welfare Centre now as children of school age. During the past year I have examined 884 school-children at the respective ages of 5, 8 and 13. There are very few physical defects, with the exception of defective eyesight and hearing. It is still somewhat difficult in some cases to persuade parents that it is necessary to have these defects attended to, particularly with regard to eyesight—as defective vision can as a rule be corrected by the provision of spectacles, and if left uncorrected is a severe handicap in later life. The Ophthalmic and Dental Surgeons hold a Clinic at the Council Offices weekly.

Proceedings were instituted in the Police Court for failure to carry out necessary repairs in one instance and an order was obtained.

The Ministry of Health require a Survey Report with regard to the district.

The sub-soil of the district is chalk, which readily lends itself to efficient drainage of surface water, etc. This is essentially an industrial area, the principal industries being cement, paper-making and printing.

**Housing.**—The shortage of houses is referred to in my report. There is a steady increase in the number of houses built, as

in 1922 only 12 were erected.

„ 1923 „ 31 „

„ 1924 „ 56 „

„ 1925 „ 67 „

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Total ... 166 in four years.

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But this is not sufficient to provide for the increase in population and I trust that a larger number will be built this year.

**Water Supply** is from the mains of the Gravesend Water Company, who derive their water from a very deep well situated in the Northfleet district about two miles out in the country. The supply is excellent both in quality and quantity, though of necessity it is hard owing to its being derived from a chalk sub-soil.

**Sewerage.**—The district is sewered by cesspools sunk in the chalk. All drains are properly laid with joints cemented and are tested by the Sanitary Inspector by the smoke test in cases of all new houses and in old houses where necessary. When cesspools are full they are emptied by employees of the Council by means of motor pump and vacuum lorry and the contents are deposited at a site belonging to the Council. There are only a very few pit closets in the rural area—the rest being properly constructed water closets. The introduction of a motor lorry has facilitated the emptying of cesspools.

**Scavenging.**—House refuse is removed by men employed by the Council on an average about once in 10 days. The dust carts are properly covered and the contents are deposited and dealt with at a suitable depôt on land belonging to the Council. Where properly covered dust-bins are not provided, an order is made by the Council. During 1925, 262 were so provided by owners.

**Sanitary Inspection of Area.**—Particulars under this heading are contained in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

**Food Inspection** is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who holds the necessary certificate.

**Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes** are dealt with in the Annual Report, which shows the progress that has been made in the district. As already stated, arrangements have been made with the Gravesend Hospital for the admission of difficult or operative cases of Labour. These arrangements and the scale of payment have been approved by the Ministry of Health.

**Isolation Hospitals.**—Cases of Infectious Disease are, by arrangement, sent to the Strood Isolation Hospital, to which they are removed in a Horse Ambulance. I trust that before long a Motor Ambulance will be substituted. There is also a Hospital for Small-Pox in Northfleet, containing 6 beds and an administrative block. This is capable of expansion in emergency.

The weekly returns of Infectious Disease have been sent regularly to the Ministry of Health and the County Medical Officer of Health.

I always attend the meetings of the Health Committee every fortnight and of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee once a month.

The Northfleet Diamond Jubilee Samaritan Fund supplies a fully-trained Hospital Nurse, together with nursing and surgical requisites. This fund is entirely supported by voluntary contributions and continues to do most valuable work in nursing the sick and providing free letters for Convalescent Homes.

The Council is prepared to supply Nurses if an epidemic of Infectious Disease should occur.

A wheeled ambulance is kept for convenience at the Police Station and is always available for the removal to Hospital of accidents and cases of severe illness.

The St. John Ambulance Association also has a motor ambulance which can be obtained either free or at a nominal charge for similar purposes.



Appended are certain tables dealing with statistics of sickness and mortality, together with the reports of the Sanitary Inspector and the Health Visitor, as well as an Appendix dealing with general statistics.

In conclusion, I am pleased to state that the health of the district continues to be most satisfactory, though in 1925, in common with other districts, there was rather a severe outbreak of Diphtheria.

I beg to tender my sincere thanks to the Health Committee and the whole Council for the very ready assistance they always give me in carrying out my duties.

I should like also to thank the Sanitary Inspector and the Health Visitor for the valuable help they always render so readily.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

HUBERT T. SELLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

5, London Road, Northfleet.

February 8th, 1926.



TABLE 1. 1924—POPULATION AT CENSUS, 1921, 15,719.

Year	Population	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.				
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.		
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 nett Births.	Number	Rate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
1921	15719	399	—	25.3	136	8.6	2	25	21	52.6	159	10.1	
1922	15960	389	—	24.3	136	8.5	3	24	22	56.5	157	9.8	
1923	16250	324	—	19.9	144	8.08	4	23	12	36.9	163	10.03	
1924	16490	352	—	21.3	158	9.6	16	30	19	51.1	172	10.4	
1925	17000	356	—	20.9	175	10.2	12	31	28	78.6	194	11.4	

Death Rate on Deaths Registered in District, Population 17,000—10.2.

Nett Death Rate—11.4.

Population Census, 1921 15,719.

Population Census, 1911, 14,184.

Population as estimated by the Registrar General for 1924, 16,900

Deaths Registered in District, Males 84, Females, 91—175.



TABLE II.—1925.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.									
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	AT AGES—YEARS.							TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
		Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up- wards.	
Diphtheria ... ..	84		15	59	9	1			88
Erysipelas ... ..	4			1	1		2		
Scarlet Fever ... ..	17		4	10	1	2			3
Enteric ... ..	2						2		2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	22			1	10	7	4		9
Tuberculosis other forms	4		1	2		1			4
Pneumonia ... ..	2				1			1	
Puerperal Fever ..	1				1				
	136		20	73	23	11	8	1	56

Area of District in Acres  
(Land and Inland Water) }

3932 Births Registered 356 }

legitimate 347  
illegitimate 9

Total population at all ages 15,716

At Census  
1921.

Total Population at all ages 16,900 estimated by Registrar General.

TABLE III.—1925.

	M.	F.	Total.
Measles ... ..		2	2
Whooping Cough ... ..		2	2
Diphtheria ... ..	6	9	15
Influenza ... ..	2	1	3
Tuberculosis of Lungs ... ..	5	8	13
„ Other Forms ... ..	1	1	2
Cancer ... ..	5	4	9
Diabetes ... ..	1		1
Cerebral Hemorrhage ... ..	7	7	14
Heart Disease ... ..	14	21	35
Arterio Sclerosis... ..	1	2	3
Bronchitis ... ..	11	5	16
Pneumonia (all forms)... ..	9	14	23
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	2		2
Diarrhœa ... ..		2	2
Appendicitis ... ..	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	1		1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	3	2	5
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth ... ..	12	4	16
Deaths from Violence ... ..	11	3	14
Other Defined Diseases ... ..	12	10	22
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ... ..	2	2	4
	106	100	206



TABLE IV.—1925.

	Under 1 week,	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	4 weeks and under 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Certified ... ..	10	3	2	1	16	3	2	4	2	27
Uncertified ... ..	1				1					1
Premature Births...	4	2	1		7					7
Convulsions ... ..	2				2					2
Bronchitis ... ..	1				1	1				2
Diarrhœa ... ..						1	1			2
Splenic Anæmia ... ..								1		1
Intussusception ... ..								1		1
Pneumonia ... ..	1				1		1	2	1	5
Parasmosis ... ..			1		1	1				2
Pneumothorax ... ..	1				1					1
Congenital Heart Disease ... ..	1				1					1
Measles ... ..									1	1
Emphysema ... ..				1	1					1
Congenital Effects	1	1			2					2
	11	3	2	1	17	3	2	4	2	28

## APPENDIX.

### 1. General Statistics.

Area (acres) ... ..	3,932
Population (1925) ... ..	17,000
Number of inhabited houses (1921) ... ..	3,140
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) ... ..	3,511
Rateable Value ... ..	£64,774
Sum represented by a penny rate... ..	£260

### 2. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

				Total.	M.	F.		
Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	347	193	154	} Birth Rate 20.9
		Illegitimate	...	...	9	8	1	
Deaths		...	...	175	84	91	Death Rate 10.2	
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth							from septis	
		...	...	...	...	...	„ other causes	nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—								
Legitimate 28, Illegitimate 0, Total 28								
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		...	...	...	...	1		
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	...	...	...	Nil		
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		...	...	...	...	2		

### 3. Notifiable Diseases during the Year.\*

Disease.						Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...			
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	17	3	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	84	38	15
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	2		
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1		
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2		
Acute Anterio Polio Myelitis...	...	...	...	...	...			



# TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...								
1	...	...				1				
5	...	...		1						
10	...	...				1				
15	...	...	4	4		1				1
20	...	...		1				3		
25	...	...	5	2		1	2	4		
35	...	...		1			1	1		1
45	...	...	3							
55	...	...					1			
65 and upwards			1				1			
Totals	...		13	9		4	5	8		2

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*

	Cases		Vision un- impaired	Vision im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
	Noti- fied	Treated				
		At home				
	Nil		—	—	—	—



## 9. Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923, or 1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

### 1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	657
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

### 2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	462
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—								
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	357
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(a) by owners ... ..	312
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order ... ..	Nil

General Character of the Defects Found. ...

Dampness mainly due to defective roofs, guttering and spouting, etc.  
 Windows unable to open properly. Defective yards, etc., and Houses  
 requiring cleansing and purifying.



To the Chairman and Members of the Northfleet Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,—

I herewith submit my Annual Report for 1925.

Primary visits and inspections	...	...	1,200
Secondary visits and inspections	...	...	1,040
Preliminary or Informal Notices served	...	...	357
Statutory Notices served	...	...	74

The tabulated list below gives particulars of matters dealt with, other than those dealt with under the Housing Regulations:—

House drains re-constructed	...	...	...	...	...	12
House drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defective plastering	...	...	...	...	...	39
Defective walls	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	13
Defective doors	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rooms requiring stripping and cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	47
Defective windows causing want of ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	21
Defective eavesgutters and fall pipes	...	...	...	...	...	44
Defective stoves for the proper preparation of food	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective water fittings	...	...	...	...	...	34
Defective W.C.'s structurally	...	...	...	...	...	3
Re-building of W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	5
Insufficient means of water supply	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diverting roof water from sewage cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	6
Accumulation of offensive matter	...	...	...	...	...	11
New sinks and sink waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	...	40
Additional cesspools constructed after S. of N.	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cesspools deepened or enlarged after S. of N.	...	...	...	...	...	38
New sanitary dust-bins required and provided	...	...	...	...	...	262
Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	48
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	1
New W.C. pans and traps	...	...	...	...	...	14
Defective grates and yard gullies	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective sash cords	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective ventilation shafts	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective wash coppers	...	...	...	...	...	7

## Testing of Drains.

6 sets of drains were submitted to the smoke test and the defects found were remedied after service of the usual notices.

## Infectious Disease Prevention.

102 houses have been disinfected and about 490 articles of clothing treated at the steam disinfecter. Three of the schools were dealt with by spraying and fumigation.

The Rosherville Schools were extensively dealt with during the summer holidays after the prevalence of Diphtheria.

## Food and Meat Inspection.

The Ministry of Health have issued further Orders calling for additional work under Meat and Food Regulations.

1,096-lbs. of beef,  
128-lbs. of pork,  
112-lbs. of fish.

were condemned as being unsound and unfit for human food. The meat was destroyed in the Council's steam disinfecter.

## Dairies and Cowsheds.

These have been inspected at various times and found to be in a good and clean condition.

## Prosecutions.

Proceedings were taken before the Magistrates on one occasion to enforce compliance with Statutory Notice. A conviction was obtained.

## Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

Inspections under Section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act were	...	...	...	...	...	300
Notices served under same Section requiring repairs to be carried out	...	...	...	...	...	220
Houses found on inspection to be in a reasonable state of repair	...	...	...	...	...	80
Number of Notices completed	...	...	...	...	...	150
Number of Notices not complied with	...	...	...	...	...	70

The general defects were damp walls, roofs, plastering, drains, floors, yard paving and windows causing want of ventilation.

## Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

During the year there has not been any prevalence of rats to any marked extent. Where stray ones have been traced, rat poison has been supplied to the occupiers of premises with instructions as to the laying of baits, and good results have been obtained.

## Cesspool System.

2,220 motor loads of sewage ... equal to 7,770 tons were removed.

1,402 van loads of sewage ..... equal to 2,804 tons were removed.

804 tumbler loads of sewage equal to 804 tons were removed.

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4,426 total loads ..... or equal to 11,378 tons.

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During the year 79 cesspools have been enlarged by deepening or the construction of headings, and 11 new additional cesspools have been constructed.

197 cesspools have been cleared of solids.

There are still a large number of houses with their roof water conveyed to the sewage cesspool, and during period of heavy rainfall a great number of these particular cesspools all become filled to overflowing at one time and a cesspool has a limit to its capacity when it will hold no more, whereas main drainage would be unlimited in passing onwards the roof water and sewage to the outlets.

The work in connection with the cesspool system being largely affected by the rainfall, the rainfall for

1923 was 22.00 inches.

1924 „ 34.00 „

1925 „ 25.00 „

The motor lorry still continues to give satisfaction in handling a greater tonnage at a much less cost than is possible with horses.

At the same time, the horses earn their cost in dealing with the solid portion of the sewage, which cannot very well be done by the lorry.

The whole inclusive costs and charges of the cesspool system work out at slightly under 4s. per ton of sewage dealt with.

## House Refuse Collection.

2,960 tons of refuse were removed. The whole of the Urban portion of the District was cleared 33 times, making the average period of collection 11 days, at a cost of approximately 7s. 6d. per ton.

The refuse is deposited on land acquired by the Council and the work is carried out by the Council's men under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

## Housing.

67 new houses have been completed during the year, but the overcrowding is still very prevalent and more particularly in those houses at about 8 to 9s. shillings per week in rental.



The Inspector has gone carefully into the extent to which this overcrowding has become. There are nearly 2,000 houses in the district with two or more families in them.

When infectious cases occur a very large number have no possible means of isolation, hence the patients of these sub-tenants have to be treated at the expense of the Council, when they are not on the rate books as contributing their quota to the Council for what they receive. The same principle applies as regards the additional work thrown on the cesspool and house refuse systems in expanding working costs.

### **Small-Pox Hospital.**

This is thoroughly inspected occasionally, and a general oversight of the place is kept by the Sanitary Inspector, so as to be ready for receiving cases with as little notice as possible should the necessity arise.

The Mortuary, drinking fountains and public conveniences are kept cleansed by the Health Department under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for the kindness and help I have received at their hands.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. DYSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northfleet Urban District Council.

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1925.

There were 358 birth, being 191 males and 167 females.

There were 10 illegitimates, 4 stillborn.

Deaths numbered 34. 24 babies under 1 year, born in 1925; 3 babies under 1 year, born in 1924; 1 baby over 1 year, born in 1924; 1 baby over 2 years, born in 1923; 4 babies over 3 years, born in 1922; 1 baby over 4 years, born in 1921.

There were 306 breast-fed, 8 mixed, 16 hand, 28 to account for.

Notifications by Doctors, 111; Midwives, 171; Parents, 10; unsigned, 13; not notified, 53 (found by return of Births from Registrar).

There were 339 visits and 2,374 re-visits paid.

Thanking you for all your kindness in the past.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Committee,

Your obedient Servant,

E. A. COOPER,

Health Visitor.

February 1st, 1926.

